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N.J. BOARD OF NURSING

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF

JENNIFER GARCIA, R.N. LICENSE NO. 26NR11844100

TO PRACTICE AS A
REGISTERED NURSE IN
THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action

ORDER OF REINSTATEMENT OF LICENSE

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of Ms. Garcia's petition for reinstatement of her nursing license. Ms. Garcia's license was suspended by means of an Order of Suspension of License entered on August 22, 2014, based upon her failure to comply with the

terms of a private letter agreement. Respondent had tested positive for alcohol while enrolled in the Recovery and Monitoring Program of New Jersey (RAMP), and then had ceased participation in the RAMP program the required approval of the Board as set forth in the private letter agreement. Respondent has since been enrolled in the Professional Assistance Program of New Jersey (PAP).

Respondent underwent evaluation by John J. Blum, MS, MSEd, LCADC, LPC, on March 20, 2015, and again on December 10, 2015.

Mr. Blum opined that Ms. Garcia has been in compliance with all aspects of treatment recommendations made by the Board subsequent to the March 20, 2015 evaluation. Accordingly, Mr. Blum recommended that her nursing license be reinstated without restrictions, although further recommending that she continue to participate in a monitoring program with ongoing participation in 12-step meetings and participation in outpatient alcohol and drug counseling at least once monthly with a licensed or certified counselor.

The Board finding that the within order is sufficiently protective of the public health, safety and welfare, and for other good cause shown;

IT IS ON THIS 23rd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2016 HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

- 1. Ms. Garcia's application for reinstatement of license is hereby granted upon review and approval of her application form, payment of any requisite fees, and upon her undergoing the requisite Criminal History Background Check, if not already submitted and completed.
- 2. Ms. Garcia shall refrain from the use of alcohol and any and all potentially addictive substances except as prescribed by an authorized health care practitioner who is made aware of Ms. Garcia's substance use history, if any. Ms. Garcia shall report any such use to the PAP in writing within five days of receiving such a prescription together with the name of the prescribing health care practitioner, the name of the drug, the quantity, frequency, expected length of use and reason for its use:
- 3. Ms. Garcia shall remain enrolled in, and comply with all of the terms and conditions of, participation in the PAP until she has been released by PAP. Ms. Garcia shall cause PAP to inform the Board in writing if she is non-compliant with, or is terminated from or resigns from further participation in the program together with the reason for and complete documentation of the non-compliance, termination and/or resignation.

  Notification of the Board shall be within 24 hours of determination of non-compliance, termination or resignation, or as soon thereafter as is practicable. Ms. Garcia shall provide

PAP's Executive Medical Director with a complete copy of the within Order.

- 4. PAP shall provide reports on a quarterly basis to the Recovery and Monitoring Program of New Jersey (RAMP), which reports shall be sent to the attention of Jillian Scott, Director, Recovery and Monitoring Program, 1479 Pennington Road, Trenton, NJ 08618. These reports shall indicate Ms. Garcia's degree of compliance with the monitoring plan.
- 5. Ms. Garcia shall provide a release to PAP allowing PAP to provide pertinent reports, records and other information pertaining to Ms. Garcia to the Board, and to RAMP, the Board's designated monitor. Ms. Garcia's signature on this order signifies her waiver of any right to confidentiality with respect to these matters, and her agreement that the Board may utilize any such reports, records and other information it receives from PAP or RAMP in any proceeding regarding Ms. Garcia's licensure and that the Board may release any pertinent information in its possession to PAP or RAMP.
- 6. Ms. Garcia shall attend regular 12 step support group meetings or the equivalent, and nurse peer support group meetings, if so required by PAP. She shall attend individual counseling and psychiatric treatment until successful discharge, if required by PAP. She shall not engage in the practice of nursing if so advised by PAP, and shall confine her employment

and employment schedule to settings and schedules approved by PAP. Notwithstanding the foregoing, respondent shall participate in A.A. meetings at least twice weekly, and shall participate in counseling sessions with a licensed or certified alcohol and drug counselor at least once monthly.

- 7. Ms. Garcia shall submit to random observed urine testing or hair testing as required by PAP. Ms. Garcia's failure to submit to testing or provide a urine or hair sample when requested shall be deemed to be a violation of the terms of this Order. All random alcohol and drug screens shall be negative for the presence of alcohol or drugs, unless the drugs detected by screening were properly taken pursuant to a valid prescription from a health care practitioner aware of Ms. Garcia's substance abuse history, if any.
- 8. Ms. Garcia shall notify the Board and PAP within 10 days of any change of address, or any termination, resignation or leave of absence from any place of nursing employment.
- 9. Ms. Garcia shall immediately inform each employer representative and nursing supervisor of the terms of this Order and provide them with a copy of the Order. Ms. Garcia shall ensure that each employer representative and nursing supervisor provides written notification on facility letterhead to PAP, acknowledging receipt of a copy of the within Order and its terms.

- 10. Ms. Garcia may apply for removal of the restrictions imposed by the within Order upon successful completion of PAP. The Board reserves the right to require Ms. Garcia to appear before the Board and demonstrate her fitness to practice without further monitoring at such time.
- 11. Any deviation from the terms of this Order without the prior written consent of the Board shall constitute a failure to comply with the terms of this Order. Upon receipt of any reliable information indicating that Ms. Garcia has violated any term of this Order, her license may be automatically suspended by the Board. Ms. Garcia, upon notice, may request a hearing to contest the entry of such an order. At any such hearing, the sole issue shall be whether any of the information received regarding Ms. Garcia was materially false. In addition, the Board reserves the right to bring further disciplinary action.
- 12. At the end of 18 months from the filing of this order, respondent shall submit to the Board documentation of attendance at A.A. meetings at least twice weekly, and participation in outpatient counseling at least once monthly with a licensed or certified alcohol and drug counselor. At that time, respondent shall submit to evaluation by Mr. Blum, or by another Board-approved evaluator, if so requested by the Board.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:

Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APN, C Board President

I have read and understand the within Consent Order and agree to be bound by its terms.

Jennifer darcia, R.N.

Consent as to form and entry:

Richard A. West, Esq.
Attorney for respondent

I have read the above order and agree on behalf of PAP to comply with the reporting and monitoring requirements as to PAP.

Louis E. Baxter, M.D., FASAM Executive Medical Director Professional Assistance Program

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By:

Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APN, C Board President

I have read and understand the within Consent Order and agree to be bound by its terms.

Jennifer Garcia, R.N.

Consent as to form and entry:

Richard A. West, Esq. Attorney for respondent

I have read the above order and agree on behalf of PAP to comply with the reporting and monitoring requirements as to PAP.

Louis E. Baxter, M.D., FASAM Executive Medical Director

Professional Assistance Program